



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA NASS Colorado Field Office
PO Box 150969
Lakewood, Colorado 80215
PH: (303) 236-2300 1-800-392-3202

COUNTY ESTIMATES

Barley – 2008 Crop

Released: February 26, 2009

Colorado's barley production increased 24 percent from last year's output due to a 33 percent increase in seeded acreage. The 2008 crop totaled 8,640,000 bushels compared with 6,960,000 bushels produced in 2007 as producers planted 80,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous year. The area harvested, at 72,000 acres, was up 24 percent from the 58,000 acres harvested a year earlier. Statewide, growing conditions were typical and the state's average yield was at 120 bushels per acre, the same as 2007.

Rio Grande County led all barley producing areas of the state by producing 2,405,000 bushels in 2008. The latest crop was 25 percent larger than the 1,930,000 bushels produced in 2007 and represented 28 percent of the state's total output. Producers harvested 16,500 acres in 2008 compared with 13,600 acres the previous year, a increase of 21 percent. The average yield of 146.0 bushels per acre for 2008 was 4.0 bushels above the 2007 crop average of 142.0 bushels per acre.

Saguache County was the second largest barley producing area of the state with a total production of 1,600,000 bushels in 2008, up 7 percent from the 1,500,000 bushels produced a year earlier. The 12,500 acres harvested in 2008 were up 17 percent from the previous year. However, the average yield of 128.0 bushels per acre was 12.0 bushels per acre below the average for the previous year's crop.

Costilla County came in as the third largest county for the 2008 crop by producing 1,350,000 bushels, up 221 percent from the 420,000 bushels produced in 2007. The harvested area of 10,000 acres increased 194 percent from the 3,400 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield for the county, at 135.0 bushels per acre, was 11.5 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 123.5 bushels per acre.

Alamosa County was fourth as its 2008 barley output of 1,150,000 bushels was up 10 percent compared with 1,050,000 bushels produced the previous year. The harvested area of 9,200 acres was 1,100 acres below a year earlier. Per acre yields in the county were lower than the previous year, averaging 125.0 bushels for the 2008 crop compared with 129.5 bushels per acre from the 2007 crop.

Conejos County maintained fifth place in barley producing counties in the state with a total production of 950,000 bushels in 2008. The latest crop was 23 percent larger than the previous year's output of 770,000 bushels. The harvested area of 7,300 acres was 1,300 acres more than the previous year. The average yield for the county, at 130.0 bushels per acre, was 1.5 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 128.5 bushels.

The top five producing counties accounted for 86 percent of the state's total barley crop. Other top producing counties with the percent change in production from the previous year and the 2008 output were as follows: **Weld County**, down 5 percent to 630,000 bushels; **Larimer County**, up 9 percent to 191,000 bushels; **Boulder County**, down 7 percent to 179,600 bushels.

Tom Vesey
Agricultural Statistician

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director

Bill Meyer
Director

Barley: Acreage and production by county and district, Colorado, 2008

	Total				Non-Irrigated			Irrigated		
County and District	Acreage planted	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Pro-duction	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Pro-duction	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Pro-duction
	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Acres	Bu.	Bu.
Boulder	2,300	2,200	81.5	179,600	...	...	...
Larimer	2,400	2,300	83	191,000	...	...	...
Weld	8,600	8,300	76	630,000						
Combined Counties	1,000	700	26.5	18,400						
Northeast	14,300	13,500	75.5	1,019,000						
Alamosa	10,500	9,200	125	1,150,000	...	...	...	9,200	125	1,150,000
Conejos	7,700	7,300	130	1,350,000	...	...	...	7,300	130	950,000
Costilla	10,500	10,000	135	1,350,000	...	...	...	10,000	135	1,350,000
Rio Grande	17,500	16,500	146	2,405,000	...	...	...	16,500	146	2,405,000
Saguache	15,800	12,500	128	1,600,000	...	...	...	12,500	128	1,600,000
San Luis Valley	62,000	55,500	134.5	7,455,000	...	...	...	55,500	134.5	7,455,000
Combined Districts <u>1/</u>	3,700	3,000	55.0	166,000				...	...	...
State Total	80,000	72,000	120	8,640,000	3,000	18.5	55,000	69,000	124.5	8,585,000

1/ Combined Districts include Northwest/Mountains and Southeast.